

Profile Data Sources

This profile was compiled using a number of different data sources to present as complete as possible a picture of the epidemic. The majority of the information, however, will be derived from the HIV Surveillance Database, which was used heavily throughout the report.

Each data source has strength and limitations. A brief description of each source follows.

1. HIV/AIDS Surveillance

The data for this report was collected through 2003 and includes reports of HIV infections, AIDS Indicator Diseases, HIV related laboratory results submitted by physicians, hospitals, counseling and testing sites, and laboratories.

2. Behavioral Surveys

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) 2003

The BRFSS is a state-based random telephone survey of adults that collects data from Indiana residents on various modifiable health risks, preventive health measures, and demographic variables. The objective of the report is to encourage change in risk-related health behaviors, to discover target populations for programs and resources, and to present the condition of Indiana's health in a way that it can be compared to the health risk behaviors of the rest of the United States.

Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (YBRFSS) 2003

The YBRFSS is a national survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to survey youth health-risk behaviors in six domains: (1) behaviors which facilitate unintentional injuries and violence, (2) tobacco use, (3) alcohol and drug uses, (4) sexual behaviors related to pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, (5) unhealthy dietary behaviors, and (6) physical inactivity and being overweight. The YBRFSS began in 1991 and is conducted every two years.

3. Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Surveillance Database

The STD Surveillance Database is part of the STD Program at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) that provides technical and financial assistance to local STD Programs for surveillance, case detection through screenings, ensuring treatment of known cases, case follow-up and education. Efforts are coordinated among the groups screening for Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia. The data in this database comes from STD clinics, physicians, and laboratories for STD infections (Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia) diagnosed through 2003.

4. Counseling, Testing and Referral Data

This database is compiled from the statewide outreach program that coordinates the efforts of local HIV counseling and testing sites. The web-based database has been created and is being maintained at Luther Consulting. The effort is intended to promote the early detection of HIV infection and the management of HIV-related illnesses, educate people regarding alternative behaviors to those which facilitate HIV infection, and to facilitate access to health care. The data that is collected at Counseling, Testing and Referral sites throughout Indiana. Testing is voluntary and either anonymous or confidential. The tests include either blood or oral testing medium.

5. Vital Statistics

The Vital Statistics source provides excerpts from the Natality report and pregnancy outcomes for 2002.

6. Population Data

The main source for all population data in the U.S. is the Census Bureau that conducts a general population survey every ten years. The last decennial census was conducted in 2000. The results of that census, as well as forecasts and estimates for 2003 were issued by the Census Bureau and are used in this Epidemiologic Profile.

7. HIV Care Data

The HIV Care Data is collected through the HIV Care Coordination Program that offers a specialized form of case management and is the foundation upon which all other HIV/AIDS services are built. The service is available statewide through twelve (12) regional sites which provide HIV positive residents with an individualized plan of care to address their medical, psychosocial, financial, and other supportive services needs.